



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2001

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**

COUNCIL TO HOST ALL-DAY BUDGET FORUM FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK, IDEAS

The Montgomery County Council will break with tradition and informally begin next year's budget process on Wednesday, September 26 with an all-day forum to receive ideas and feedback from County residents and employees. The event will be broadcast live on County Cable Montgomery (channel 6).

The forum -- to be held at the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville from 9 AM to 5 PM -- will provide an early opportunity for County residents to share with the Council their perspectives on capital and operating budget issues involving schools, transportation, health and human services, public safety, and more, as well as on possible savings and efficiencies in County agencies.

"We want to reach out now to give folks the chance for advance input into budget proposals to be shaped and considered by the Council and the County Executive," said Council President Blair Ewing. "This is an opportunity for County residents to get in on the ground floor -- and have more meaningful impact on the budgets for County services that affect their families.

"Depending on the state of the economy, the Council may be faced with hard choices when it comes to matching our needs with available resources. We need to hear directly from taxpayers -- as early as possible -- as to what they feel are the right choices.

"We also welcome participation in this forum by County employees. They are on the front lines of delivering County services. They have insight into what's working and not working -- and how we can be even more efficient and effective."

Persons wishing to testify should call the County Council at 240-777-7931. # # #